

Award-winning musician eyes prime minister's job

A successor to Prime Minister Stephen Harper? An understudy to criminal lawyer Edward Greenspan? A stand-in for Toronto orchestra leader Peter Oundjian?

Each career vision is a possibility for 17-year-old Colton Carrick.

For Colton honestly admits an affinity for all three professions: politics, law and music.

Tomorrow evening, the latter comes first. He'll receive the 2011 St. James Presbyterian Church music scholarship at a 7:30 p.m. concert in the cafetorium of Stouffville District Secondary School.

Seven Whitchurch-Stouffville schools, represented by close to 500 students, will take part including St. Mark, Whitchurch Highlands, Ballantrae, Glad Park, Harry Bowes, Stouffville Christian and SDSS.

Now in its 19th year, it's the only event of its kind in York Region.

Colton, a graduate of Glad Park now in Grade 12 at Stouffville Secondary, is one of three boys in the family of Kelly and Sarah Carrick. A brother, Matthew, is spending a semester at England's Denstone College on a rugby exchange. Another brother, Scott, is a Grade 8 student at Glad Park.

While, like Matthew, rugby was, from grades 9 to 11, an extra-curricular love, Colton decided in Grade 12 to set this passion aside and concentrate on music. He plays tenor sax in two bands at his school in addition to participating in a saxophone quartet along with Olivia Ronan, Tressa Sheffield and Daniel Wzyzinski-Leonard.

However, strange as it may seem, the saxophone is not his favourite instrument. It's the bagpipes. He plays them at every opportunity, Remembrance ceremonies, Robbie Burns dinners and high school assemblies.

"I like the sound," he says. "It's part of my Scottish heritage." His grandmother, Kathleen Carrick, enjoys them too, he adds.

Practice sessions, he explains, are confined mainly to the privacy of his own room. He admits, however, the reverberations often resonate throughout the house.

"The pipes aren't known for their subtlety," he says, "but my parents are happy to oblige." They've been supportive every step of the way, he states. So also has Diane Marlatt, staff music director at SDSS, he notes.

When playing in public, Colton takes



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

pride in wearing the traditional Carrick family tartan.

Other school involvements include being president of the student council and a member of the school's music council. He actively participates in politics at both the federal and provincial levels.

"First a law degree and then maybe prime minister of Canada," he suggests.

Following June graduation, Colton plans to enter university, possibly Queen's which both grandfathers attended.

On the subject of leaving SDSS and Stouffville, Colton calls it bittersweet.

"I'll always have a nostalgic feeling for this town," he says. "It will be sad to leave but when the time comes, I'm sure I'll be ready."

With respect to tomorrow's scholarship presentation, Colton says the announcement came as a "complete surprise."

"There are so many equally deserving. It's something I never expected."

Previous award recipients include Georgina Muir, Clara Jordan, Jocelyn McDowell, Cameron MacKenzie, Kathryn Irwin, Carley MacLean, Lillian Wild, Jennifer Thunem, Kirstie Hembruff, Aaron Clubine, A.J. deBoer and Madeleine Eddy.

Since its beginning, the concert has raised more than \$77,000, with all monies returned to participating schools' music programs. Adult admission is \$5.

Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason will be the show's MC.

Jim Thomas, a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years, is a member of the committee organizing tomorrow's student concert.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Colton Carrick leads a Remembrance week parade at the Stouffville Cemetery. He'll be honoured tomorrow during a schools' concert at his own school, Stouffville Secondary.

This Winter Step Out with Confidence

With winter snow and ice there is a greater risk of falls.

This winter:

- Keep all steps and walkways clear of ice and snow.
- Carry a small packet of grit (sand or kitty litter) in your purse or pocket to spread on icy spots.
- Wear boots or overshoes that have a deep tread and fit properly.
- Dress warmly and appropriately for the weather so you aren't rushing to get indoors.
- Wear sunglasses to cut down on glare.
- If you have to walk on ice, take small steps and walk slowly.



HEALTHY AGING *it's your move!*

York Region

Health Connection 1-800-361-5653, TTY: 1-866-252-9933

www.york.ca/injuryprevention

OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF YORK REGION



INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE, and FAMILY COUNSELLING

DAYTIME & EVENING APPOINTMENTS

905-770-7040
1-800-263-2075

LANGUAGES:

English
Korean
Mandarin
Cantonese
Italian
Spanish

OFFICES:

Richmond Hill
Maple
Newmarket
Sutton
Pefferlaw

- Depression and Anxiety
- Family Communication
- Grief and Bereavement
- Trauma and Abuse
- Couple Relationships
- Work-Life Balance
- Healthy Boundaries
- Parenting Concerns

